PART V—MANUSCRIPTS.

LETTER OF VĪRA RĀJENDRA WOḌEYAR, RĀJA OF COORG.*

(C. 1799 A.D.).

(Pl. XX, A).

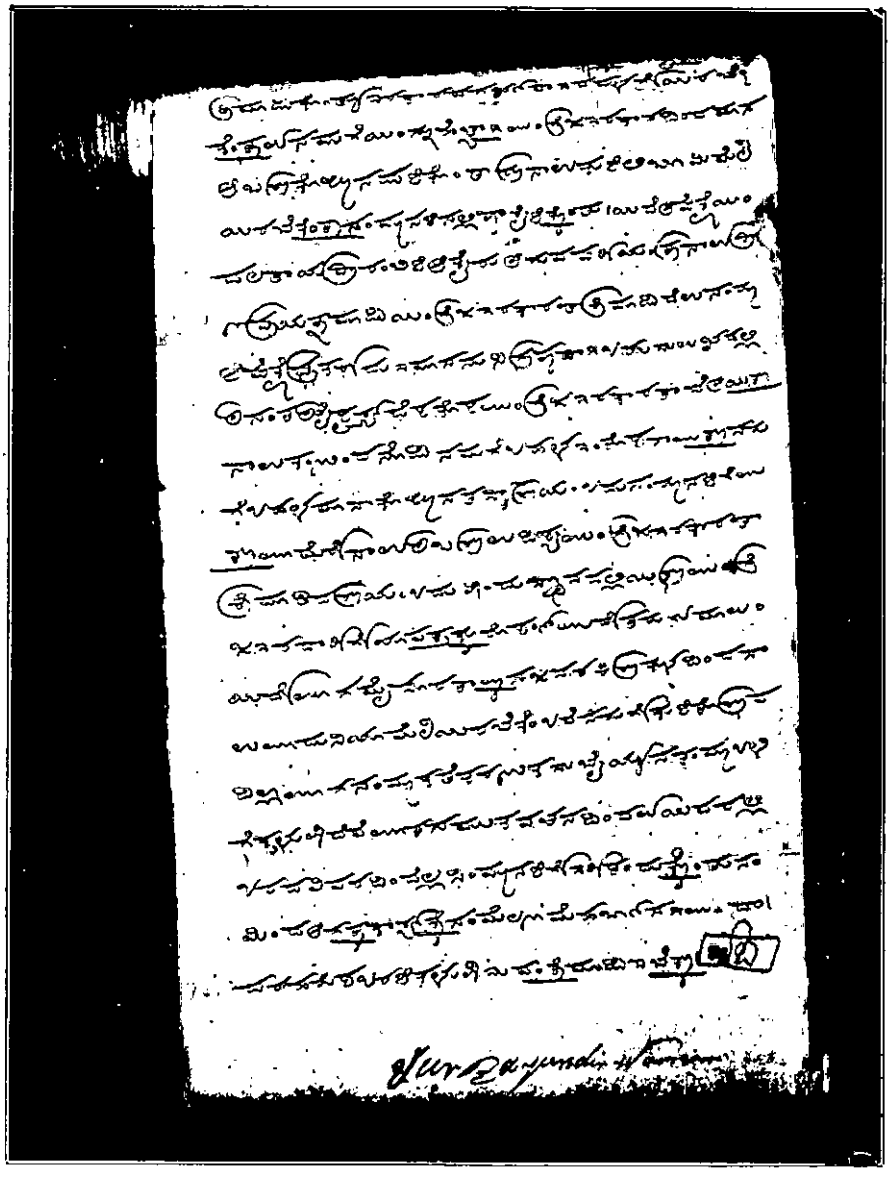
The document consists of an interesting long paper roll containing a letter written by Veer Rajunder Warriar (Vīra Rājendra Woḍeyar) of Coorg in about 1799 A.D. to the British and was discovered among the papers transferred from the Residency of Bangalore to the custody of the Record Office of the Mysore Secretariat. It is a roll about fifteen feet long composed of about twenty slips of paper, each eighteen inches in length and six inches in breadth. The lines on both pages extend to a length of 26.2". The paper is blue hand made foolscap and contains the water mark of a prancing horse with the English capitals 'A' 'G' below it. The letter is in Kannaḍa with about 422 lines on the first page and 311 lines on the second page, total 733 lines. At the end of the Kannaḍa writing appears a signature in English "Veer Rajunder Warriar." The rest of the second page contains some accounts in Mahratti Modi, Kannada and Urdu, which are no doubt a later addition. At the end of the second page are found the Kannaḍa words meaning 'the Coorg Raja's Kaifiath' with the figure '7'. The document is thus the authentic original copy of a memorial submitted to the English Government by the Coorg Rāja.

This document was prepared to furnish the reply and explanation of the Coorgs to a letter† from the British addressed to them and complaining that an officer of

* The following account is contained about the Coorg Rāja Vira Rājendra Voḍeyer in the 'Narrative Sketches of the conquest of the Mysore,' London, page 18, footnote :—

"This friendly chief, when a boy was by the course of family feuds, a prisoner with Hyder Ally, who compelled him to become a Mussalman, with all the shameful ceremonies of initiation : he was enrolled among the Chaylas, or slave troops, and continued so under Tippoo Sultaun, till he made his escape in 1785, into his own dominions, where he instantly offered his service to the English : it was accepted, and he proved a most useful ally.—A British fugitive (who had also been lucky enough to effect his escape from Seringapatam) saw this Rajah in 1793, at his residence at Necknah, and describes him as a young man bukishly dressed in nankeen pantaloons, European boots, and a shirt made in the English fashion. In a short conversation, which turned upon the then recent dismemberment of Tippoo's dominions, he remarked, that 'the English had cut off the monster's right hand and feet, and he hoped to see them cut off his left ones too.' The prophetic chief has seen his hopes more than realized!—At the treaty of Seringapatam, in 1792, Marquis Cornwallis generously stipulated for the security of the gallant Rājah. Tippoo Sultan was irritated at the demand, and broke off the actual negociation with our General, who thereupon began to renew hostilities; but Tippoo finding a reluctance in his troops to defend the capital was compelled to accept the dictated terms."

† This letter is perhaps the one written by Col. Close, the Resident of Seringapatam, with whom the Coorg Rāja was required to put himself in correspondence after the withdrawal of Capt.



LETTER OF VIRA RAJENDRA WODEYAR, RAJA OF COORG (p. 114).

Mysore Archæological Survey.]

Coorg named Īśvaraiya plundered seventeen villages of the Mahārājanadurga taluk (in the Mysore territories) five days after the capture of Seringapatam by the British and carried away women, children, cattle, grain, silver and gold, bronze and copper vessels, etc.,of the villages in the taluk. The letter from the British gave a list of the articles carried off by the Coorgs and required them to return these immediately without delay. Word was also sent through Captain Mahoney who had been Resident at Coorg to the same effect.* The Coorg Government sent this answer to that letter through an agent Karaṇīka Subbaiya.†

The answer of the Coorgs may be divided into two parts, (1) that relating to the assistance rendered by the Coorg Government to the British in the conquest of

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Mahoney from Coorg. Col. Close does not 'seem to have ingratiated himself with the Rāja.' The letter is dated 16th November 1799 and was addressed from Seringapatam. It ran as follows:—

"From

"Colonel Barry Close.

"To

"The Raja of Coorg.

"Lord Mornington has transferred me to Seringapatam as Commissioner of Mysore, of which you may be aware. A report reaches me from the Manjarabad frontier, that five days after the fall of Seringapatam your people made a predatory incursion into the Maharajadurga district, and plundered 17 villages, of women and children, cows and calves, gold and silver, rice and seed grain, and carried the spoil beyond the frontier. I enclose a list of the plundered articles. From the day of the capture of the capital Mysore belongs to the Company, but Maharajadurga belongs to Mysore; there is therefore no difference between Mysore and the Company. But you are an ally of the Company. You are therefore requested, without delay, to return every article contained in the list.

"I am told you wish to see Seringapatam; as the army will return to this town within a few days, you should inform me of your resolution.

"List of articles plundered by Coorgs in the Maharajadurga district:—67 women, 34 men, 11 boys, 10 girls, 1383 cows, 574 buffaloes, 834 oxen, 121 calves; 729 Kanthirai pagodas, 82 silver ornaments, 36 silver bracelets, 27 coral necklaces, 63 silver girdles, 54 pairs of golden earrings, 215 brass plates, 93 copper vessels, 67 guns, 6 horses, 155 sheep, 95 knives, 96 sickles, 90 axes, 5 brass pans, 7 iron chains, 72 bundles of clothes.

"This affair seems not to have been settled without considerable difficulties, in which the Raja implored the good services of his personal friends amongst the English."—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, Lewis Rice, pp. 127–128.

* "Captain Mahoney who had been appointed Resident with Vira Raja a short time previous to the commencement of the last war with Tippu, communicated to the Raja the Earl of Mornington's proclamation of the war, dated Fort St. George the 22nd February 1799, and asked him in the name of the Company's Government to exert himself to the utmost of his power, as he would necessarily share the fate of the English if Tippu were victorious."—Cp. *Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, Lewis Rice, p. 124.

† That Subbaiya was in the employ of the Coorg Rāja is gathered also from *Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, Lewis Rice, page 125. He and Bopu are said to have been sent on an expedition into the Tulu country when Seringapatam was besieged by the British.

Tippu's territories as per *tahnama*. treaty entered into by the Coorgs with the British East India Company; (2) that relating to the explanation rendered by the Coorg Government for their alleged plunder of the Mysore territories against which the people of Manjarābād taluk had complained as represented by Dewan Pūrniah's men.*

The first part gives details of the part played by the Coorg Government in assisting the British army in the conquest of Tippu's territories.

It begins with a reference to the letter sent by the Governor-General of India, Lord Mornington, to the Coorg Rāja at the commencement of hostilities between the British and Tippu Sultan. No date is given for the letter. It states that as war was about to break out between the English and Tipu, the Bombay Governor, General Stuart (called in the manuscript Ishtol Saheb), was passing with his army through Coorg and that the Coorg Government should give him all help that he might require and that they should also be ready to fight to the utmost possible extent when asked by him to do so and that Captain Mahoney (called Mavini Saheb in the manuscript) would be appointed and sent as vakil or envoy of the English Government to Coorg and that the Coorg Rāja should assist the English Government as instructed by him. The Bombay Governor had also sent a letter to the same effect and both General Stuart and General Hartley arrived in Coorg with their armies. Captain Mahoney also arrived (as Resident) at Coorg to receive help from the Coorg Government. The Coorg Government rendered every service to the East India Company in accordance with the instructions given by these three.†

* Purniah and the Coorg Raja do not seem to have been on good terms from the beginning. In one of the letters addressed by the Coorg Raja to James Stevens he states as follows: "As to Purnaiya, he is and remains a Brahmin. His caste and mine dislike each other. In the time of Tippu he blackened my name and persecuted me, and now he is the master in the country; therefore he distributes the offices in the districts amongst his friends and relations, calumniates me through his district officers and other caste fellows with the English Government, and even submits a complaint against me, with a list of booty which my people are accused of having carried away in the north. Upon this Col. Close wrote to me, enclosing the list, and demanding that I should pay the compensation accordingly."

The letter continues as follows: "This Col. Close has never seen me, and does not know my history, nor does he understand Canarese. Thus he wrote me a letter through a Brahmin as if addressed to a slave. I enclose the letter of Col. Close and a copy of the list of booty. Upon the perusal of these papers you will understand all. . . . . Purniah lodges a complaint against me as if I had offended against the Company. Being thus dishonoured, I have no wish to live any longer. You know all my acts. I write to you with deep sorrow that all my services have been requited with such dishonour from the Company."—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, Lewis Rice, p. 128.

† About the service rendered by him to the British he says in a letter addressed to James Stevens thus: "Convinced in my mind that all the enemies of the English would succumb and that the English Government would be victorious and that the British flag would float triumphantly in

The manuscript next gives details of the war with Tipu carried on by the Bombay army and of the kind of co-operation rendered by the Coorg Government.

The first event mentioned is the battle which Tipu Sultan waged with the British at Siddhēśvarana-gaddige or Sedasir on Wednesday, the first lunar day of the bright fortnight of Phālguṇa in the year Kāḷayukti. The Bombay army took up its ground between Ahmostenar and Siddhēśvar on the 2nd of March 1799 for the protection and augmentation of the large supplies which were then collecting at Vīrarājendrapet* under the friendly and assiduous co-operation of the Coorg Rāja and from this position General Stuart intended, on its approach, to form a junction with the army of Madras. Tipu Sultan "determined to strike a sudden and deadly blow, by attacking the army of Bombay, whilst yet outside the confines of his own territory and in the dominions of a British ally, the Coorg Raja; and for this purpose, taking with him the flower of his troops, amounting to a considerable force and attended by three of his sons and Meer Kummeruddeen Khan, he marched from his camp near Senapatam on the 28th of February, and moving rapidly in the direction of Periapatan arrived there on the 5th March. . . . ." (*Narrative Sketches of the Conquest of Mysore*, London, pp. 18-20).† The authority above quoted also states that at Siddhēśvar, about 7 miles distant from Periāpaṭṇa, General Stuart with the help of Major General Hartley defeated, on the 6th March, Tipu who retreated precipitately

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all the four quarters of the world, I served the Company from the beginning of the war in the hope to have to deal with friends like you and to be treated honourably."—*Ibid.*

* A depot had been formed at Virarajendrapet and measures had been taken to accumulate whatever his little State could afford—*Ibid* 123.

† "Tippu moved with a large force towards the frontier of Coorg, to oppose the Bombay army. He encamped near Periyapatna. The battle of Siddheswara ensued when three native battalions under Colonel Montresor and Major Disney, held their ground against the whole army of Tippu from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M., when the two flank companies of His Majesty's 75th and the whole of the 77th under Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop, led by General Stuart to their assistance, broke Tippu's line within half an hour and obtained a complete victory with a comparatively small loss. That of Tippu was severe, numbering amongst the slain the famous Benki Navab, or Fire-prince, one of his best generals.

"The Raja of Coorg personally accompanied General Stuart, and witnessed for the first time the conduct of European troops in the presence of an enemy. There was a chivalrous air in all that proceeded from this extraordinary man, and some passages of his letter to the Governor-General giving an account of the operations of this day are tinged with his peculiar character.

"'General Stuart,' he writes, 'marched with two regiments of Europeans, keeping the remainder of the army in the plain of Karidigodu; on approaching he ordered the two regiments to attack the enemy. A severe action ensued, in which I was present. To describe the battle which General Stuart fought with these two regiments of Europeans; the discipline, valour, and strength and magnanimity of the troops; the courageous attack upon the army of Tippu; surpasses all example in this world. In our shastras and puranas, the battles fought by Allaret and Maharut have been much celebrated, but they are unequal to this battle; it exceeds my ability to describe this action at length to your Lordship.'"—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, LEWIS RICE, pp. 124–5

to his camp at Periāpaṭṇa after this signal defeat and remained there until the 11th of March and afterwards retired into Seringapatam where he arrived on the 14th. (The date given in this manuscript, namely, Kāḷayukti Phālguṇa śu. 1 Wednesday corresponds to 6th March* 1799, but on that day Māgha bahuḷa amāvasya tithi lasted till evening according to Svami Kannu Pillay's Ephemeris. However the local pañchāṅgams (calendars) may have given the tithi as Phālguṇa śu. 1).†

With the above description of the war in the words of the Coorg Rāja we may compare the account of the war given by Mir Hussein Ali Khan Kirmani :—

"At this time news arrived that a body of English troops from Bombay commanded by General Stuart, bringing a very large convoy of stores and provisions' was advancing by the route of Koorg straight towards Seringaputtun. The Sultan, therefore, immediately with the whole of his troops and artillery, leaving some of his chief officers to make head against the enemy (General Harris) marched off to attack that body, (Battle of Sedaseer) and in one day and two nights arrived in front of them and gave orders for the attack. The faithful Syud Ghuffar, who in bravery and loyalty had no equal, grappled with the enemy on one flank, while Hussein Ali Khan, the son of Nawab Kotbuddin Khan carried death and destruction among them on the other, raising the flames of war to the skies—the other Mir Miran, (General officers) also, in charging and defeating the enemy used their most strenuous endeavours, and with their swords, musketry, and artillery, put the infidels to flight;—and they giving way to the necessities of the time, and having no power to withstand the shock of the Sultan's blood-drinking lions, leaving part of their baggage behind them, slank into the jungle and occupying its outlets remained there. The troops of the Sultan, however, still followed them, and vigorously attacking them again, strained every nerve to rout and destroy them;—at this critical period Muhammad Ruza, Mir Miran, having by much entreaty obtained from the presence leave to charge proceeded with his division like a raging lion towards the enemy, and stretching forth the arm of valour, it went near that the whole of the enemy's army was cut up and destroyed. The ambush of fate, however, having girded their loins to accomplish the defeat of the Mussulmans, a musket shot from the enemy accidentally struck the head of Muhammad Ruza, and he fell mortally wounded. His victorious soldiers took up his corpse and carried it to the Sultan, who directed it to be forwarded to the capital, while he occupied himself in the defeat and dispersion of this force;—when spies brought intelligence that the Bombay army had retired from further opposition, and had marched by the route of the Jungul to Kalicote."—*Translated by* Col. W. Mills, p. 259.

* The date of the battle fought at Siddhesvara is also given as the 6th March 1799 A.D. in a letter of the Coorg Raja to James Stevens:—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, Lewis Rice, p. 129.

† "The first impression on the Sultan's mind, was to renew the attack on the ensuing day, with augmented numbers, but in the meanwhile General Stuart had changed all his dispositions. The chief object for which this advanced post had been occupied, must necessarily cease to exist, during the presence in its front of the Sultan's main army; and the security of the abundant depot of provisions in the rear, accessible by other routes, rendered necessary a new and more concentrated disposition of the troops; and the evacuation of the post of Sedaseer, afforded to the Sultaun the faint colour of describing as a victory what every officer in his army felt to be an ignominious repulse. 'Having (in the language of the Raja of Coorg) brought disgrace upon himself, he employed all his art and knowledge to recover his lost reputation; and having in this manner considered for five days, but not having taken up resolution to attack the Bombay army again, he marched on the 6th (the 11th of March) to Seringapatam; and thence, with no favourable anticipations to oppose the progress from the east, of the more formidable army of General Harris."—Wilks' *History of Mysoor*, Vol. II, pp. 347–8.

We next learn of the negotiations between the above British officers and the Coorg agents. The British officers stated at Siddhēśvar that war had begun between them and Tipu Sultan and in order to harass him it was necessary that the Coorg troops also should attack his army. But the Coorg chiefs stated that the English had guarded the road from Seringapatam to Coorg through Sidāpur, but there were other roads to Coorg and Tipu might harass them in various ways if they went to war against him. They also had to perform heavy duties to assist the English by guarding their boundaries against attacks by the enemy, provide supplies to the Bombay army at their camp and provide camp bazaars therein, bring grain from below the ghauts on two to three thousand bullocks, provide fodder for the military cattle, erect thatched huts for the preservation of the supplies of grain, look after the cattle, guard against the rumoured attack of the Kōṭe chief (Kōṭe Arasu) as an ally of Tipu* invading through Calicut and of the Manjarābād chief Kṛishṇappa Nāyak. Thus saying, the Coorgs declined to take part in a direct campaign against Tipu.

But in a few days a Brāhman named Sūrayya (who later became Amil of Arkalgūḍ) who wanted to win the good graces of Tippu is stated (in the manuscript) to have attacked the villages belonging to Coorg named Torenur, Hebale and Sirangala with the help of the men from Arkalgūḍ, Basavāpaṭṇa and Koṇanūr in Tippu's territories and plundered the villages, burnt the houses, killed the ryots by tying their hands and feet and throwing them into the river Kāveri, and carried away women and children. The Coorg chief complained of this to the English officers, General Stuart, Hartley, Baden, and Captain Mahoney, the English Agent. The English retorted by saying that as war had actually broken out with Tipu and the Coorgs refused to go to war with and harass Tipu they had to suffer therefor and that they should at least strive to harass him thereafter. The Coorgs reluctantly had to agree to these words coming from three English officers and after providing for the garrisoning of the territory and helping the English with supplies of grain, etc., they sent a part of their army under Karaṇīka Subbaiya to attack Sadri Mir Muhammad Khan, an officer commanding Koḍeyāla Taluk and another division under Īśvaraiya to attack Heggaḍadēvankōṭe Taluk. Of these Īśvaraiya's troops lost some men and met the English troops at Karaḍigoḍe and told them that they got no booty as the villagers had run away with their cattle, etc., after hearing of the battle of Siddhēśvar.

* "Instigated by Tippu, and incited by the prospect of plunder, a body of Nairs was to invade Coorg as soon as the army proceeded to the eastward. To repel such an attack, and to secure the rear, especially the hospital which was erected at Virarajendrapet for the sick of the Bombay army whom General Stuart left in Coorg when he marched against Seringapatam, Vira Raja, who had offered to accompany the English army into Mysore, was politely requested to stay behind with his Coorgs, who were rather troublesome auxiliaries to a regular army."—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, p. 124.

In the meanwhile General Lvayin Saheb(?) went to Periyāpaṭṭaṇa anp Tipu's troops cut off the contact of English troops from Bombay with those of General Lvayin at Periyāpaṭṭaṇa. The Coorg troops were with great difficulty rescued and taken to the camp of the Bombay army. General Stuart felt glad to find that the Coorgs were saved and ordered them to transport the camp equipage of the English with the guns to Alabattapaṭṭaṇa (?). The Coorgs accordingly transferred all the guns from Keraḍigoḍe to Sidēśvarana-gadige. But General Stuart however said there was no need for these guns, etc., in their army and ordered that they should be taken back to Sidāpur and carefully guarded until the arrival of the English troops within the next 10 or 15 days in their midst to carry away the supplies. The Coorgs obeyed this order, went to Piriyāpaṭṭaṇa and after supplying a load of rice, etc., on 2,000 bullocks of theirs to the Bombay army at Piriyāpaṭṭaṇa returned to their territory at Vīrarājendrapet and took charge of the sick, cattle, etc. belonging to the English army left behind and tended them carefully at Vīrarājendrapet. They also transported their guns to Siddāpur and they were collecting grain, etc., for supplies to the English troops on their return.

But the Coorgs could not live in peace.* The ryots of the villages Torenūr, Hebbale, Sirangala, etc., who had been plundered by their neighbours of Koṇanūr, Arkalgūḍ and Basavāpaṭṇa Taluks complained that they should be compensated for their wrongs. The Coorgs hence sent a small army division under Īśvaraiya to those villages and engaged in the collection of supplies went to Maḍakēri from Vīrarâjendrapet. Īśvaraiya marched upon Arkalgūḍ, but the people of the Basavāpaṭṇa fort fired upon his troops and fought with them. Hence Īśvaraiya was in danger, but with some difficulty he stormed the fort of Basavāpaṭṇa and plundered the fort and carried some women and children thereof to Coorg as reprisals for similar act done by the people of that village. Later the inhabitants made a *cowl* or treaty with them and he did them no further damage but remained in their midst.

The other Coorg army sent under Karaṇīka Subbaiya to Koḍeyāla Taluk encountered opposition from the Māpillas of Kumbala Taluk. Some looting was done. But seeing that Koḍeyāla Taluk would belong to the English ultimately the Coorg army did not give them much trouble. But the garrison of Belarikōṭe fought with the Coorgs and the fort was taken by the latter. Similarly the Coorgs encountered opposition at Koḍiyāla. They however overcame this opposition and occupied the territory up to Bārukūr and Bāgvāḍi and garrisoned it. But at Vīragamba the Mapillas rising in rebellion under their leader Sadri surrounded the Coorgs with their

* " While Seringapatam was besieged, Vira Raja sent an expedition of Coorgs, under Subbaiya and Bopu, in to the Tulu country, the greater part of which was wrested from the Mussalmans and plundered in the Coorg style. His efforts in Mysore were not less vigorous or less successful. Baswapatna, Arkalgudu and other smaller towns were captured, and the Coorgs indulged themselves in the full gratification of every military appetite."—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, p. 125.

men numbering three to four thousand. The Coorgs in self-defence fell on them and killed four to five hundred of the enemies; the rest of the Māpillas ran away. They took prisoner a sardar named Koshatri Kṛishṇarāv and sent him to their chief who took him to Captain Mahoney. Some plunder was obtained in this campaign. Similarly Ali Saba of Dantavara fought with the Coorgs and was defeated and some looting is said to have taken place. So also at Udyavara where the Māpillas under Sadri with the help of some Karnāṭakas, Mir Hamid Ali's 500 soldiers, and the Nairs of Munaru Kol, fell upon the Coorgs and taking refuge in a mosque fired shots at the Coorgs killing fifty to sixty of their people. Then the Coorgs set fire to the mosque, killed 700 to 800 of their enemy and drove away Sadri. Some looting was done here also. But elsewhere the Coorgs did no damage to the enemy's country but giving '*cowls*' to the people, garrisoned all the territory with Mangalore, Kodeyāla, Bārakūr, Bāgvāḍe and Hosangaḍi as boundaries and protected the territories against damages from Tipu's men.

Meanwhile the Coorg chief remained at Maḍakeri. Suddenly he found that news from the English armies was not received for 8 days from Chaitra bahula 30, Saturday. The people of Tipu's territories spread rumours that Tipu sent his family, treasure, etc., to Banchanakalludurga (Chitaldrug) after setting fire to the magazine of gun-powder at Seringapatam when that fort was occupied by the English and thus causing them great damage. The Coorgs felt very sad at this news. But a week later, namely, on Saturday the 7th lunar day of the bright half of Vaiśākha, a letter was received from Captain Mahoney announcing the death of Tipu and the conquest of his territories by the English and the return of the English troops of the Bombay contingent from Seringapatam. The chief was asked to go immediately to Vīrarājendrapet which he did on the next Monday.

Captain Mahoney informed the Coorg chief that 10 days before, namely, on Chaitra ba 30 Saturday (4-5-1799 A.D.) the English took Seringapatam after laying siege to it and that its territories were in the occupation of the English. The chief was instructed to stop all hostilities and make over all the territory newly conquered to the Government of the East India Company. He was also informed that a British engineer named Hamilton would arrive soon and fix the boundaries of the Coorg and British territories. The chief however complained that if he suddenly removed the garrisons stationed in Tipu's territories there would be anarchy in the district and wicked people who were partisans of Tipu might cause much disturbance and harm to Coorg. To this Captain Mahoney replied that the Coorgs might retain their control over the conquered territories until the arrival of the Bombay regiments, which would take place early and that after their arrival the Coorg chief was to take instructions from the General of the Bombay army regarding the future treatment of the territories.

Accordingly the Coorg chief sent instructions to stop all fighting or plundering

to Iśvaraiya and other officers stationed at Basavāpaṭṇa, Mangalūr, Bārakūr, etc. The letters containing his instructions took 2 to 7 days to reach his garrisons and officers. Iśvaraiya replied that beyond some damage including looting while taking the fort of Basavāpaṭṇa he did not cause any trouble to Tīpu's territories and he promised to prevent any looting by his men. Similarly all the officers of Coorg reported that they did no looting after the receipt of instructions from their chief.

After this, General Stuart and Major-General Hartley came to Coorg and thanked the chief for his services in the war and they went to Cannanore. The chief helped the transport of the stores, supplies, etc., of the army from Coorg to Cannanore. He was advised regarding his garrisons in British territories, etc., to refer to Colonel Wiseman who was going shortly to Mangalore Taluk. General Stuart left for England after once again thanking the Coorg chief. General Wiseman shortly arrived in Mangalore Taluk and Karaṇīka Subbaiya made over the places conquered by him to that officer and returned with his men to Coorg.

But there was some difficulty with regard to the Coorg general Īśvaraiya. Some Brahmans who had been formerly in the employ of Tipu went to him, presented some flags which they said they had brought from the British and asked Īśvaraiya to leave the country and go to Coorg territories as he had no business to remain in their territory and as the Taluk belonged to them (Mysore State). Īśvaraiya complained to his chief who ordered him to leave the Mysore territories out of respect for the British flag and return to Coorg, the boundaries of which would be shortly settled by Mr. Hamilton.* Īśvaraiya carried out the above order and returned to Coorg to look after the State lands therein.

The rest of the manuscript contains a resume of the events recited above from the time Tipu arrived in Siddhēśvarana Gaddige to the time that Captain Mahoney ordered the cessation of hostilities on Vaiśākha śu 10 Monday. The chief of Coorg pleads that the people of Coorg would only be responsible for any encroachments on their neighbour's territories or plunder in those territories after the receipt of instructions from Captain Mahoney and issue of the same to Coorg garrison officers. The Coorg people never went against the *tahnāma* or treaty entered into by them with General Abercrombie at Tellicherry requiring that the Coorg chief should allow the passage of British troops through his kingdom and give them every possible help. The British generals, officers, General Stuart, Captain Mahoney, etc., were all aware, says the Coorg chief, that the Coorgs never transgressed the terms of the treaty

* "On the 23rd May General Harris, the Commander-in-Chief, sent a letter of thanks to Vira Raja, accompanied by a present of one of Tipu's own horses, one of his palkis and one of his howdas. The promise was also given that the country of Coorg would be restored to the Raja." —*Ibid.*, 125.

entered into with the British or the orders issued from time to time by the British officers.*

Regarding the Mysore boundary complaints, the chief's explanation in the manuscript is to the effect that the people living in the Mysore State near the Coorg boundaries were always the enemies of the Coorg citizens even in the time of Tipu Sultan. They were always making false complaints to Tipu through Pūrṇaiya† against the Coorgs. Tipu however was afraid of the English interfering on behalf of the Coorg citizens and used to hold perfunctory inquiries into these complaints and report to the English. Now that Pūrṇaiya was the 'sarvādhikāri' of Mysore, he was causing great trouble to Coorg. He also disliked the Coorg chief for his support of the English and hostilities against Tipu. But the Coorg government relied on their faith in God (Mahadēva) and trust in the British Government dedicating to their service all their kingdom, children, servants, etc. The ryots in the neighbouring taluks of Mysore (which originally belonged to Tipu) were enemies of Coorg and had demanded compensation for the alleged wrongs done to them.

The demands made by Pūrṇaiya and his men from the Coorg chief for restitution for the losses incurred by his people from the depredations of the Coorgs were:‡ Women 67; men 34; little children 11; cows 1,383; bullocks 834; buffaloes 574; clothes 121 pieces; cash Kantiroy varahas 729; trinkets, silver and gold 82; silver bangles 36; coloured bead necklaces 23; silver chains 63; gold ear-rings 54; bronze plates for dinner 215; pots (tambige-tāli) 93; guns 67; ear ornaments called muru 6; horses 6; goats 155; swords 115; Kodaga-gatti swords 126; battle-axes (kuradi kodli) 116; bronze plates big 5; iron chains 7; cloth bundles 72. All these were said to have been taken away by the Coorgs while looting the Mysore territories and had to be returned by the Coorg chief without delay as per list enclosed.

To this the Coorg chief's answer was as follows:—None of these things mentioned in the list sent to him had been brought by his people to him. More than

* A certificate, dated the 12th October 1799 which was given by Capt. Mahoney was as follows:—

(1) The Raja has exerted himself to the utmost in the service of the Company.

(2) He has collected large supplies of rice and forwarded them to Seringapatam, thus saving the troops from famine.

(3) He has furnished 1,000 coolies to the army, and 2,000 men for the conveyance of the ammunition to Seringapatam, without receiving remuneration.

(4) He has furnished the Bombay army with more than 3,000 bullocks, 5 elephants, 3,000 sheep and 40,000 batties of rice.

(5) For all this trouble and expense he has accepted of no payment or reward.

(6) The Raja's conduct has afforded great satisfaction to the men and officers of the Bombay army many of whom have experienced his friendship.

—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, Lewis Rice, page 130.

† *See* note 4 above.

‡ *Cf.* the list sent by Col. Close—Note 1 above.

the regular soldiers of Coorg who fought with their guns the people who effected greater plunder in the Mysore territories were a regular set of plunderers who had no connection with the army but who followed in its wake. They might have obtained some clothes and metallic vessels. It is not known whether they also laid hands upon some silver and gold. Any way they said that they never knew anything about 700 varahas. They only brought a few bullocks, goats and sheep which the Coorg chief made over to the English Government. Regarding the women brought to Coorg, the Coorg chief said that on his instituting inquiries among his people, it was learnt that previously Tipu Sultan had caused 64,000 Coorgs to go to Seringapatam with their families by making them false promises and had imprisoned them there. After some time, only some men escaped and went to Coorg. Tipu Sultan thereupon gave away the women and children to his own followers and killed several of the Coorgs. He also castrated the male children. Even recently a Brāhman named Sūraya of Arkalgūḍ had made incursions with the help of the villagers of Basavāpaṭṇa into the villages Torenūr, Hebbale, Sirangala of Coorg and plundered the property of the ryots of the villages and carried away their women and children. On seeing this, the Coorgs complained to the English and the English had told them that they might also loot in the enemy's territories and carry away what they could. Hence acting on this instruction, the Coorgs laid siege to Basavāpaṭṇa and in the fight which ensued several people died on both sides. The Coorgs who were victorious carried from there 50 to 60 women to Coorg. Of these, some had run away without the knowledge of the chief of Coorg, some were married with the chief's permission, some had died. Now the Coorgs could not send back the rest of the women as their women had been carried away by Tipu in large numbers and they had married many of these women and were living with them. The Coorgs complained that they could not now live without them. The Coorg chief could not force them to part with the women and would leave the matter to the good sense of the British who were the masters.

The Coorg Chief also stated that the Coorgs were ready to pay any sum that may be adjudged reasonably and would serve the British East India Company. Hence he pleaded that the English might take pity on the Coorgs, institute careful inquiries in the neighbouring taluks and only levy such sums from them as would be considered just and fair. The Coorgs were under great pecuniary difficulties and felt it difficult to pay up money to the English according to the demand made.* They had helped General Robert Abercrombie when he came with the Bombay army. They had also

* With this we may compare what the Raja said to James Stevens in a letter: "If I am desired to pay, the question is whence to take the money? What my ancestors and myself accumulated, was spent when I twice faithfully supported the Bombay army. What after the peace of 1792 I obtained from my country, I annually made over to the Company. If anything remained, I expended it on the assistance to General Stuart. But in case I should have to pay according to this

paid the sums demanded from them to the English on the conclusion of peace with Tipu. What little money they had saved out of their earnings and their ancestor's savings they had now spent in serving General Stuart of Bombay. Hence the Coorgs could not pay anything just then. But if 4 to 5 months' time was given, they would try to pay up the amount that was considered reasonable. The Coorg chief held bonds of Bombay Government for one lakh of rupees which he had deposited with them. The Coorgs would also go to their friends in the Bombay army and explain to them their difficulties and beg them holding their cheeks (gallahididu bēḍikondare) for a loan of the money demanded. This amount they would repay somehow or do service under the officers and pay up out of the salaries received. Thus the Coorgs prayed for a reasonable demand in money and five months' time to pay it up.

Next, the Coorgs were asked to return six horses which they had procured (from Mysore districts). But they had never received any such horses or had any one taken such horses to them. They were not available with them. But if however the English compelled them to render accounts for the same they would have to obey, though there were no horses with them of the description given. But there were four horses with them presented by the English officers,* namely General Harris, General Stuart, General Hartley, General Robert Abercrombie. If the English required they would return these four horses and procure two horses with great difficulty and expense if time was given.

Next, the English had sent word to the Coorgs that they would gratify their desire to see Seringapatam soon after the English army would encamp at Seringapatam.† But the Coorgs replied that they were never anxious to see Seringapatam. They had desired to see the officers in the army of the English and Mysore Governments. But now that a charge had been foisted on them that they had disobeyed the orders of the English and plundered the Mysore territories, they felt no eagerness to go to Seringapatam. Since Captain Mahoney had been the Vakil of the English Government with them and knew all the acts of the Coorgs, the Coorgs would be glad to meet the English officers at Seringapatam if they were to be conducted there by Captain Mahoney from Coorg.

Lastly, the Coorgs stated that they held numerous letters from various responsible British officers, Lord Cornwallis of Bengal, Robert Abercrombie, Sir

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list, I must earnestly request, that as a compensation for my services, at least my honour remains intact. However, I am quite unable to pay. In Bombay I have one lakh of rupees deposited with the Company; this money I will send for and pay. If it does not suffice, I beg of you and the officers of the Bombay army to be my brothers. My honour is yours. If matters reach extremeties I will come to you, and all the officers together will perhaps give me the rest of the sum and leave to me only my honour. What you do for me, I will certainly repay. If you cannot help me, I must turn elsewhere to save my honour."—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, pp. 129–30.

* *See* Note 12 above.

† Mentioned in the letter addressed by Col. Close to the Raja. *See* Note 1 above.

John Shore, Lord Mornington, Dunkin, General Harris, General Stuart, General Hartley, Malevar Commission Saheb (?). Also numerous letters from native rulers had been received in Coorg showing the great respect in which the Coorg chief had been held. But the letter received from the English now lacks in respect since it did not bear the signature of the officer who issued it and it was difficult to say whether it was not a mere creation of the *munshi* who wrote it. The great ambition of the Coorgs in serving the East India Company so long lay in their ardent desire that the Company's territories and wealth might increase daily, their flags might fly every where, the Coorgs might become friends of the English officers and hunt with them and remain under their protection; that the Coorgs might receive greater honour at the hands of the English and might live in peace and happiness on earth.* It is with this hope that the Coorgs helped the English even at the cost of their lives and they were glad to see with their eyes the defeat of their enemy and the occupation of his territories by the English. It was only natural for the Coorgs to hope that the English would treat them with great respect. It was well known to all the English officers in Hindustan how the Coorgs served the English cause to win their respect and regard. But now on account of the trouble caused by the Mysore taluk people the Coorgs did not feel happy even to live. They had sent Karaṇika Subbaiya to represent their cause. He would explain the matter orally and there would also be detailed account given in this paper. The Coorgs prayed that the English authorities would carefully examine all these and send a reply about the services to be rendered by the Coorgs.†

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* The same hope is expressed in Note 5 above.

† "In 1804, Capt. Mahoney arrived at Mercara with a letter from the Governor-General, informing Vira Raja that six maganis of the province of Canara would be transferred to him by Mr. Ravenshaw, the Collector of Mangalore, in return for the supplies he had furnished, and the services he had rendered to the British Government during the late wars. The districts thus added to Coorg on the western frontier yielded 24,897 pagodas.

"In the same year, at the suggestion of Major Mark Wilks, then Acting Resident at the Mysore Durbar, the boundary between Coorg and Mysore on the Subrahmanya side was finally adjusted by Mr. Peile and Major Mackenzie, to the Raja's entire satisfaction; 190 stones were ordered to be erected, with the Company's mark on the top, that of Mysore on one side and that of Coorg on the other."—*Mysore and Coorg*, Vol. III, p. 131.